

Claims

We claim:

5 1. A radio frequency identification ("RFID") device having stored thereon an expiration and a set of data bits which, when presented to a processing device via a RFID reader, causes the processing device to enable a feature that would otherwise be disabled in an electronic device, and disable the feature when the expiration reaches a predetermined value.

10 2. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device is associated with an item, and wherein the set of data bits is programmed into the RFID device at one of the following events: point-of-decision to purchase the item, point-of-purchase of the item, point-of-possession, and point-of-distribution of the item.

15 3. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined value is based on a number of uses.

20 4. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined value is based on a period of time.

5. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined value is based on an event that occurs in the electronic device.

25 6. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID reader is capable of powering the RFID device, receiving data transmitted by the RFID device, and sending the data to the processing device.

30 7. The RFID device of claim 6 wherein the RFID reader is also capable of transmitting modulated data.

8. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the electronic device is selected from a group consisting of: an electronic game console, a personal digital assistant, a cellular telephone, and a pager.

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9. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the set of data bits comprises an access code that would enable at least one of a plurality of features.

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10. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device is attached to one of the items selected from a group consisting of: a game piece, a collector's card, a game card, and a token.

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11. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device is capacitively coupled to the RFID reader.

12. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device is inductively coupled to the RFID reader.

13. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device is coupled to the RFID reader via a contacted interface.

14. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device comprises an antenna element and a circuit coupled to the antenna element, and wherein the RFID device and the RFID reader are coupled to a common return path.

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15. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device couples to the RFID reader in a dipole configuration.

16. The RFID device of claim 1 wherein the RFID device couples to the RFID reader in a monopole configuration.

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17. A radio frequency identification ("RFID") device having stored thereon a counter and a set of data bits which, when presented to a processing device via a RFID reader, causes the processing device to disable a feature that would  
5 otherwise be enabled in an electronic device, and enable the feature when the counter reaches a predetermined value.

18. A radio frequency identification ("RFID") device having stored thereon a counter and a set of data bits which, when presented to a processing device via a  
10 RFID reader, causes the processing device to enhance a feature in an electronic device.

19. The RFID device of claim 18 wherein the enhancement to the feature is disabled when the counter reaches a predetermined value.  
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20. The RFID device of claim 19 wherein the predetermined value is based on one of the following events: a number of uses, and a period of time.